



KNOWLEDGE TO
MEET THE CHALLENGE OF
CRIME AND JUSTICE

National Institute of Justice

Jeremy Travis
Director

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Director's Message

This issue of the *NIJ Journal* demonstrates how sophisticated technologies and innovative partnerships among law enforcement, corrections, community leaders, and researchers are evolving. The partners are finding that collaborations can lead to new ways to restore and maintain safety in neighborhoods and correctional settings.

Thomas Rich offers an overview of creative mapping applications that communities across the country are using to identify and address crime problems. By integrating crime data with other data—survey data on adolescents' behavior, for example—these applications go well beyond the traditional mapping methods. Today's technology offers expanded possibilities for a community's law enforcement, corrections, and social service agencies to collaborate on analyzing data within and across agency and jurisdictional boundaries.

Thomas E. Feucht and Andrew Keyser describe a collaboration between prison officials and researchers that addressed drug use among prison inmates. In 1995 and 1996, six inmates died of drug overdoses in Pennsylvania's prisons. Recognizing the threat to inmate and correctional staff safety, the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections developed a drug interdiction strategy that combined specific steps and actions with analytic evaluation of the outcome. Two years after the program was initiated, inmate drug use had declined dramatically.

In a third feature article, five U.S. Attorneys describe partnerships in their cities that are targeting serious crime problems. Relying heavily on statistical data and information analysis, these U.S. Attorneys have become key problemsolvers by teaming with researchers and other community leaders to develop crime reduction strategies. Results of their efforts so far are preliminary, and the *NIJ Journal* will continue to report on progress in the five sites.

The John B. Pickett Criminal Justice Policy and Management fellowship program at Harvard University provides an opportunity for mid-career criminal justice practitioners to hone their leadership and problem-solving skills. This issue's fourth article describes the experiences of four Pickett fellows who have become leaders in their fields. As we approach the new millennium, their experiences remind us that strong criminal justice leaders will be the key to developing and sustaining effective problem-solving efforts and to keeping our neighborhoods safe.

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Reducing Drug Use in Prisons:

As part of the Pennsylvania Department of Correction's drug elimination strategy, the department's K-9 unit increased its searches of inmate housing and institutional areas. See "Reducing Drug Use in Prisons: Pennsylvania's Approach," page 10. Photo: Susan McNaughton

Using Knowledge and Teamwork

U.S. Attorneys, community leaders, and researchers are teaming up to identify and solve specific crime problems. A pilot initiative in five cities builds on lessons learned in other communities where crime is dropping. See "Using Knowledge and Teamwork To Reduce Crime," page 16. Photo: Sergeant Joe Humkey

